Cable TV review

'Marilyn & Bobby'

By Irv Letofsky

In the new USA movie "Marilyn & Bobby: Her Final Affair" (the title says it all), there's a twisted but almost refreshing honesty. Not in the presentation but in the network's proclamation that this is "a blend of fiction and speculative journalism."

This is like "Hard Copy Goes to the Movies." If our little gray cells haven't figured it out by now, Marilyn Monroe and Robert F. Kennedy have risen beyond the status of public property into the realm of plot device. That's the essence of this odd affair, a few historic facts, ingenuity and this new concept of advantageous journalism.

It's an attempt to fashion a romantic, almost blissful love story between a lonely, vulnerable, airhead movie star (as played by Melody Anderson) and a sometimes misunderstood but earnest attorney general (James F. Kelly), who

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MARILYN & BOBBY: HER FINAL AFFAIR
USA
Barry Weitz/The Auerbach Co.
in association with Reteitalia Prods.
Executive producers ..... Barry Weitz, Jeffrey Auerbach
Producer-production manager ..... Lorin Salob
Director-director of photography ..... Bradford May
Writer ..... Gerald Macdonald
Production designer ..... Joe Rainey
Art director ..... Kurt Meisenbach
Editor ..... Dan Cahn
Music composer ..... Joseph Conlan
Costume designer ..... Jill M. Ohanneson
Starring: Melody Anderson, James F. Kelly, Thomas Wagner, Richard Dysart, Jonathan Banks, Geoffrey Blake, Ian Buchanan, Kristoffer Tabori, Amanda Horan
Airdate: Wednesday, Aug. 4, 9-11 p.m.; also Aug. 8, 14

'Marilyn'

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is almost driven to distraction about getting Jimmy Hoffa in jail.

Our Bobby here might have run away with our Marilyn into the sunset ("She makes me feel like a little boy") except for the singular mission taken by him and big brother John to better the world for mankind.

The performances and the period production are nicely done, given the peculiar nature of the script. But the only one to come off as truly interesting is Jonathan Banks, who plays a troubled guy named Joe who is — if you can compute this unique assignment — an honest, gentle recovering hitman-killer for Hoffa who is commissioned to dog the couple and kill Bobby. Joe's just too nice a guy. □